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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/599,760	10/10/2006	Kai Beilenhoff	C1241/21210	3822

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EXAMINER

STERLING, AMY JO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3632

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/12/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@crbcp.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/599,760	Applicant(s) BEILENHOF ET AL.	
	Examiner AMY J. STERLING	Art Unit 3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35, 41 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 36-40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 October 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/6/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office Action for application number 10/599,760, Adapter for Attaching an Electronic shelf Label to a Blister Hook, filed on 10/6/06. Claims 29-42 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement submitted on 10/6/06 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 29-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5979674 to Thalenfeld.

The patent to Thalenfeld discloses an adapter for attaching an electronic shelf label to a blister hook, with a housing (34) into which the shelf label is insertable or is inserted, and with a suspension device for the pivotal mounting of the housing on a cross-strut provided on the free end of a cantilever of the blister hook, wherein the suspension device is a fork yoke (22) having prongs which are connected to the

housing, the yoke which has a crossbar connected to two pliable sleeves (37) having a connecting web in between and an opening between that extends as far as the connecting web the yoke which in open condition has a free end that is adapted to be placed around the cross-strut and to be snap-locked onto the yoke, wherein each pliable sleeve has on its free end a hook adapted for locking engagement with a mating hook (34) on the yoke.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5979674 to Thalenfeld as applied to claim 29 above, and in view of United States Patent No. 7089695 to Fast et al.

Thalenfeld discloses applicant's basic inventive concept, all the elements which are shown above with the exception that it does not show wherein the housing has on its inner side two short bars extending in parallel of the cantilever and hooks used to lock the housing in place.

Fast et al. teaches a housing (100) which has on its inner side two short bars (24, 26) extending in parallel of the cantilever (72a) and hooks (28) used to lock the housing

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in place. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Fast et al. to have added this feature in order to securely fasten the desired item to the device.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 36-40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The reason is that the prior art does not teach a mushroom-shaped bearing trunnion on the inner side of the prongs.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 571-272-6823. The examiner can normally be reached (Mon-Fri 8am-5:00pm). The fax machine number for the Technology center is 571-273-8300 (formal amendments), informal amendments or communications 571-273-6823. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 571-272-3600.

/Amy J. Sterling/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3632
2/9/08